

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LUANDA 01500 072045Z

70

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W
----- 023410

O R 071755Z OCT 75

FM AMCONSUL LUANDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4263

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

CINCLANT

CINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUANDA 1500

EXDIS

MILITARY ADDRESSEES HANDLE AS SPECAT

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PINS, MILI, AO

SUBJJC PORTUGUESE ARMY ABANDONS EQUIPMENT ON WITHDRAWAL FROM NOVA
LISBOA

1. THE CENTRAL ZONE COMMAND OF THE PORTUGUESE ARMY WAS PHASED
OUT ABRUPTLY AND UNCEREMONIOUSLY ON OCTOBER 4. TROOPS FROM
ONE OF THE COMMAND'S REMAINING TWO BATTALIONS, DRESSED IN CIVILIAN
CLOTHES AND CARRYING NO WEAPONS, WERE AIRLIFTED OUT OF NOVA
LISBOA BY THE AIR FORCE ON OCTOBER 2 AND 3. THE REMAINING BATTALION
PLUS THE COMMAND STAFF, UNIFORMED AND CARRYING ONLY SHOULDER
WEAPONS, LEFT NOVA LISBOA BY AIR ON OCTOBER 4, WITHDRAWAL OF
ARMY FROM NOVA LISBOA LEAVES GOP WITHOUT INLAND MILITARY
PRESENCE BETWEEN LUANDA AND SA DA BANDEIRA, AND WE HAVE HEARD
THAT SA DA BANDEIRA COMMAND WILL CLOSE OUT WITHIN NEXT TWO WEEKS.

2. AFTER UNSUCCESSFUL EFFORT TO NEGOTIATE AGREEMENT BETWEEN
UNITA AND FNLA RE DIVISION OF ABANDONED ARMY INSTALLATIONS, SUPPLIES
AND EQUIPMENT, IT WAS DECIDED THAT FNLA AND UNITA WOULD
RESOLVE MATTER BETWEEN THEM. ACCORDING TO ZONE COMMANDER
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 LUANDA 01500 072045Z

LT. COL. RAMIREZ RAMOS, A JOINT UNITA-FNLA COMMISSION WAS

APPOINTED TO WORK OUT AN AGREEMENT, AND IN THE INTERIM FIVE SOLDIERS FROM EACH SIDE WILL STAY AT EACH INSTALLATION, SUPPLY POINT, ETC, TO PROTECT THEIR RESPECTIVE INTERESTS. ABOVE ARRANGEMENT APPARENTLY DID NOT EXTEND TO RIFLE AND MACHINE GUN AMMUNITION, AMMO BELTS, CLIPS, ETC. WHICH WERE OBSERVED BEING LOADED ON UNITA AND FNLA TRUCKS ON OCTOBER 3.

3. WE DO NOT KNOW EXACTLY WHAT KIND OF EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES WERE ABANDONED BY ARMY, BUT OBSERVERS AT AIRPORT ON OCTOBER 3 AND 4 NOTED THAT ONLY A FEW TRUCKLOADS OF NON-PERSONAL BAGGAGE WERE TO BE SHIPPED OUT WITH DEPARTING TROOPS. WE DO KNOW THAT GASOLINE AND DIESEL FUEL STOCKS WERE LEFT BEHIND AND THESE CERTAINLY HELP TO FILL SINGLE MOST CRITICAL NEED OF MILITARY UNITS IN SOUTH-CENTRAL ZONE. IN ADDITION, COMMANDER OF CAVALRY BATTALION TOLD KILDAY THAT BOTH BATTALIONS WOULD LEAVE MOST OF THEIR WEAPONS BEHIND, AND FIRST SGT, OF ARTILLERY BATTALION STATED ON OCTOBER 3 THAT ALL MORTARS AND MACHINE GUNS (OF WHICH ONLY EIGHT OR NINE OF EACH WERE OBSERVED IN ARMORY) PLUS AMMO FOR SAME WOULD REMAIN IN NOVAHLIYDOA. ALL ARMY VEHICLES WERE ABANDONED IN PLACE BUT IT IS NOT KNOWN WHETHER ANY ARMORED VEHICLES WERE INCLUDED.

4. IN CONVERSATION OVER PAST TWO WEEKS, GEN. ALMENDRA HAS IDENTIFIED HIMSELF AS SUPPORTER OF UNITA AND JONAS SAVIMBI. LT. COL. RAMIREZ RAMOS ALSO FAVORED UNITA AND EXPRESSED ADMIRATION FOR SAVIMBI AND PRIDE IN THE PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP THAT EXISTED BETWEEN THEM. RAMIREZ RAMOS ALSO STATED THAT IN HIS NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE FNLA AND UNITA OVER THE DISPOSITION OF ARMY INSTALLATIONS, ETC. HE URGED THE TWO SIDES NOT TO ALLOW THE ISSUE TO DIVIDE THEM AND THUS WORK TO THE ADVANTAGE OF MPLA. ALMENDEZ HIMSELF HAS TRAVELLED TO NOVA LISBOA FOUR TIMES IN THE LAST TWO WEEKS, PURPORTEDLY TO ASSURE THAT UNITA WOULD NOT BLOCK EVACUATION OF PORTUGUESE OR SMOOTH WITHDRAWAL OF PORTUGUESE TROOPS. HE MET WITH N'ZAM PUNA ON ONE OF THOSE VISITS AND IS BELIEVED TO HAVE MET WITH SAVIMBI ON TWO OTHERS. ALMENDRA'S CONSTANT ESCORT DURING HIS LAST VISIT ON OCTOBER 4 WAS JOAO VAHEKENI, WHO IS NOW UNITA DIRECTOR OF SECURITY BUT IS ALSO THE ONE UNITA OFFICIAL WHO CAN ARRANGE AN APPOINTMENT WITH SAVIMBI ON A MOMENT'S NOTICE.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 LUANDA 01500 072045Z

5. THERE ARE TWO OTHER MISCELLANEOUS BITS OF INFORMATION WHICH MAY SUGGEST A PORTUGUESE MILITARY EFFORT TO ASSIST FNLA AND/OR UNITA.

A. ON OCTOBER 2, AN AIR FORCE DC-6 LANDED AT NOVA LISBOA AND WAS UNLOADED BY FNLA SOLDIERS ON TO FNLA TRUCKS. THE MATERIAL OFF-LOADED WAS CONTAINED IN SAND-COLORED PLASTIC SACKS APPROXIMATELY FOUR FEET LONG AND THREE FEET IN DIAMETER. THERE WERE ENOUGH TO FILL TWO TWO-TON TRUCKS. THEY DID NOT

APPEAR HEAVY ENOUGH TO CONTAIN ARMS, AND A U.S. OFFICIAL WHO APPLIED ONE TEST OF TOUCH, JUDGED THEM TO CONTAIN BOOTS AND CLOTHING.

B. GENERAL ALMENDRA STATED ON OCTOBER 4 THAT PORTUGUESE NORD ATLAS AIRCRAFT WOULD CONTINUE TO FLY TO NOVA LISBOA FOR SEVERAL WEEKS EVEN THOUGH THE AIRPORT NO LONGER HAS A TOWER OR GROUND CREWS. WE KNOW THAT NORD ATLAS AND DC-6 REFUGEE BAGGAGE PICKUP FLIGHTS SCHEDULED FOR FIRST FEW DAYS OF WEEK BUT BEYOND THAT WE CAN THINK OF NO REASON FOR NORD ATLAS TO GO TO NOVA LISBOA OTHER THAN TO DELIVER EQUIPMENT.
KILLORAN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY EQUIPMENT, TROOP DEPLOYMENT, NOVA LISBOA, MILITARY AGREEMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 OCT 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: buchandr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975LUANDA01500
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750348-0335
From: LUANDA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751075/aaaacooa.tel
Line Count: 126
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: buchandr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <12 JUN 2003 by WorrelSW>; APPROVED <22 OCT 2003 by buchandr>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: C PORTUGUESE ARMY ABANDONS EQUIPMENT ON WITHDRAWAL FROM NOVA LISBOA
TAGS: PINT, PINS, MILI, AO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006